

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

Friday, May 18

This is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

On Monday, I'm joining community leaders in Benton Harbor to make an exciting announcement.

The Harbor Shores redevelopment project will break ground this summer, and the whole community is involved in the effort.

This project is going to jumpstart Benton Harbor's economy and give a boost to the entire region – and it is exactly the sort of comprehensive approach to revitalization that we have set in motion across Michigan.

Harbor Shores is going to create thousands of jobs. To start, 4,000 Benton Harbor area workers will build the development on 530 acres of land, creating homes, stores and shops, marinas, a world class golf course, and even a hotel with a water park!

No doubt, Harbor Shores will become a top destination – for Michigan citizens and for out-of-state tourists. It will ultimately employ 2,000 people, and by expanding the tax base it will help increase funding for schools and for public safety.

The plan will improve public spaces and access to the beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, and it will help grow businesses and encourage training for residents so that they can fill the job vacancies.

My economic development team is helping the effort by offering tax incentives for the project. This effort is part of our comprehensive economic plan.

We're also diversifying Michigan's economy and investing in education, health care and public safety so that our communities can grow and prosper. And Harbor Shores is just one of our promising projects.

In fact, I just got back from Ann Arbor where I attended the grand opening for Google's new headquarters. Yup, the world's leading search engine was looking for the right place to grow their business, and their search ended in Michigan.

Google was attracted by our well-educated work force, and they've already hired 100 new employees. Many of these new Googlers, as they like to be called, are graduates of our great public universities in Michigan.

Google and the Harbor Shores project are investing in Michigan's future because they believe that our Great Lakes and our great talent will help them thrive. They believe in Michigan's future.

Even though our state has taken some tough hits, we still believe in Michigan, too. And now is the time for us to invest in that future – invest in our public schools so that our kids are ready for success in life; invest in our colleges and universities so that students are prepared for cutting-edge jobs; invest in health care so that excessive costs don't eat up our hard-earned money; and invest in public safety and our natural environment so that Michigan is always a safe, and beautiful, and fun place for us, and for visitors.

Thank you for listening.